

Remarks/Arguments:

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-13 are pending; Claim 4 was previously canceled; Claim 11 is amended herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment, as support for the amendment may be found, for example, at page 15 of the specification.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 11-13 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75. Based on a telephone conversation with Examiner Kastler on October 22, 2003, Applicants believe that this objection has been overcome by the present amendment to Claim 11. It is therefore respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

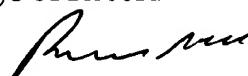
Additionally, Applicants respectfully request acknowledgement of the Petition filed June 12, 2003, a copy of which is enclosed herewith.

Consequently, as Claims 1-3 and 5-10 were indicated as allowed, and Claims 11-13 are believed allowable as explained above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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